REMARKS

The present invention is directed to polymeric compositions having desirable physical characteristics such as a high elongation of approximately 100 percent or greater, a modulus of approximately 4333 g/mm^2 or less, and a refractive index of approximately 1.45 or greater, useful in the manufacture of ophthalmic devices.

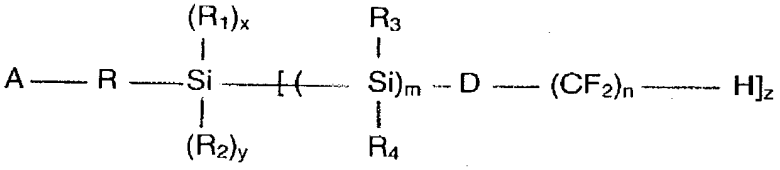
Claim 7 has been amended as indicated above to more clearly define the subject invention. Support for the amendments to claim 7 is found on page 17, among other locations throughout the subject specification.

Claims 7-13 and 19-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time of the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19-28. Based on the above amendment to independent claim 7, directly supported by Table 1 of the specification, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is no longer appropriate. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is thereby respectfully requested.

Claims 7-13 and 19-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunzler et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,710,302 (Kunzler).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Kunzler teaches monomeric units useful for reducing the modulus of silicone hydrogels. The Kunzler monomeric units are of the following generalized structure:



wherein A is an activated unsaturated group;

R and D independently are alkyl, alkylene or haloalkyl groups having 1 to 10 carbon atoms wherein said carbon atoms may include ether linkages therebetween;

R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from alkyl or haloalkyl groups wherein ether linkages may be included between carbon atoms; siloxane groups; and carbocyclic ring groups having from 6 to 18 carbon atoms;

M is an integer from 1 to 500; n is an integer from 1 to 20;

X and y are 0 or 1;

Z is 1 or 2; and x+y+z=3; so long as at least one of R_1 or R_2 is an alkyl groups having 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

To the contrary, compositions of the present invention produced from siloxysilane monomers differ significantly from the Kunzler monomeric units having a "$-D-(CF_2)_n-H]_z$" component. The compositions of Kunzler have fluorine bonded to carbon forming a "fluorine moiety". The compositions of the present invention do not have fluorine moieties bonded to alkyl, alkylene or haloalkyl groups as represented by "D" in Kunzler. For this reason, in addition to others not discussed herein, the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19 - 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is inappropriate. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19 - 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is thereby respectfully requested.

Claims 7-11, 13 and 19-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meijs et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,981,615 (Meijs).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 7-11, 13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Meijs teaches a bisfunctionalized macromonomer useful in the production of contact lenses.

To the contrary, the soft, flexible compositions of the present invention are monofunctional monomers not bisfunctionalized macromonomers as taught by Meijs. Accordingly the compositions of the present invention differ significantly from those described by Meijs. For this reason, in addition to others not discussed herein, the rejection of claims 7-11, 13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is inappropriate. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-11, 13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is thereby respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe pending claims 7-13 and 19-28 now stand in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions regarding this communication, please contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,

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